



REPORT
ON THE
HEALTH OF THE COUNTY BOROUGH
OF WEST BROMWICH,

FOR THE YEAR 1907, BY

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BARRISTER-AT-LAW,

Medical Officer of Health to the Borough,

TO WHICH ARE APPENDED THE REPORTS OF THE SANTTARY
INSPECTOR, FOOD AND DRUGS INSPECTOR, AND PUBLIC
ANALYST.

WEST BROMWICH:

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MUNICIPAL BOROUGH OF WEST BROMWICH.

Population, 1901 Census	65,170
Estimated Population, 1907	69,123
Area	...	...	...	5,860 acres

Rateable Value of Property assessed to the

Relief of the Poor, November, 1907	...	£229,221	5	0
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Rateable Value of Property assessed to the

General District Rate, November, 1907	£210,073	3	9
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Number of Houses in the Borough,

November, 1907	14,732
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*TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
SANITARY COMMITTEE OF THE COUNTY BOROUGH
OF WEST BROMWICH.*

GENTLEMEN,

Herewith I present to you my report on the health of the Borough for the year 1907, being the eighteenth which I have had the pleasure of submitting to you.

Introductory

The past year must rank high as being the starting point of much excellent work done and set on foot for the purpose of improving the sanitary condition of the town.

The problem of refuse removal and destruction, which has been before the Council for so long, which has been so often the subject of comment by the Inspectors of the Local Government Board, and about which so many clouds of misunderstanding and misrepresentation have gathered, has at last approached the region of practical politics. The scheme, which will be presented to the Council at an early date, will provide for the destruction of all dry household refuse by fire and for utilising the heat thus produced for some mechanical or electrical purpose.

Refuse
Removal and
Destruction

The progress which has been made in the conversion of the privy-middens into water-closets has been sufficient to have crossed the half-way line and to approach the three-fourths; there may, therefore, be less apprehension in the minds of the public that a destructor is necessarily a dépôt for excreta. The diminution in the amount of refuse removed by our contractors will be seen in the reduction of our estimates for refuse removal for the coming three years, on which a considerable saving has been effected, and it is probable that at the end of that period we shall be able to undertake this work ourselves, and thereby assure to the town the profit which is now earned by the Contractor.

Conversion of
Privy-
middens

For some years past a demand has been made for the provision of suitable urinal and lavatory accommodation in our town, and just complaints have been made of the position and condition of those which are already provided. Your Com-

Urinal and
Lavatory
Accommo-
dation

Urinal and
Lavatory
Accommo-
dation

mittee, taking advantage of the erection of the new Carnegie Library, decided to abolish the old open urinal by the Market Hall and to replace it by a handsome underground convenience, which has been much appreciated; they have also successfully persuaded the Council to consent to the removal of the Fountain and the provision of an underground place for both sexes in Dartmouth Square. Further steps will also be taken to improve the condition of other existing places.

Infantile
Mortality

The reduction of the present heavy mortality among infants of less than one year of age has been the subject of legislation during the year, and your Council, having already appointed a Health Visitor, are in a position to take advantage of the new law. The New Year auspiciously has commenced with the adoption of the Notification of Births Act, and in a year's time it will be interesting to report on its effect.

Sanitary
Department

The Sanitary Department has again maintained its reputation as a training school for inspectors, and Messrs. Martin and Topping have been appointed to Coventry and Wednesbury respectively. Mr. Kingston, of Greenock, has joined the staff, and has shown himself very well informed in his work, especially as regards the inspection of meat.

Measles and
Scarlet Fever

The prevalence of Measles, and later on of Scarlet Fever, has caused considerable trouble and expenditure, but these matters are fully set out elsewhere. Dr. Spencer Lowe visited the Hospital in connection with the enquiry as to the loan for extending the administrative buildings. While expressing his satisfaction, he warned your Medical Officer against overcrowding, a warning which has been regarded as far as the circumstances of the epidemic would permit. The new buildings are approaching completion, and will be occupied early in 1908.

Congresses

During the year your Medical Officer has attended the Hygiene sections of two Congresses at Exeter and in London, at both of which much good work was done in the direction of improving the national health; the inspection of school children, the notification of births, and in the near future the more extended protection of the milk supplies, are the outcome of such gatherings.

The Home Secretary convened a number of Medical Officers with a view to obtaining certain information as to the employment of women during pregnancy and the period after childbirth. As, however, no grant could be made and the necessary machinery does not exist here, the matter has been left to those who are equipped for the purpose. The Health Committee of Newcastle-on-Tyne have formulated a scheme for establishing a National Council of Public Health, to which your representatives have assented so far as to promise to consider any detailed proposals that may be put forward. It is very doubtful if the scheme will be a success.

National
Council of
Public Health

I wish to express my hearty thanks to my Committee and my brother officers for their kindness and cordiality in carrying out the work of the department, and I sign myself,

Your obedient servant,

HERBERT MANLEY,

M.A., M.D., D.P.H., ETC., ETC., BARRISTER-AT-LAW.

January 8th, 1908.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population

The estimated population for the year 1907 is 69,123, probably somewhat in excess of the true figure; the divergence from the actual return has a tendency to increase as the time from a census increases.

Inhabited Houses

The number of inhabited houses as at November 1st, 1907, was 14,732, against 13,706 at the time of the census, showing an increase of 1,000 houses in six years. The increase in the population for the same period is estimated at 3,953, or only four persons per house.

If the number of residents in the public institutions of the Borough is to be taken into consideration, it will be found that there are in round figures 4.5 persons per house; under these circumstances there should be no overcrowding of any moment, nor does such appear to exist.

The danger in which West Bromwich stands is not that of overcrowding, but rather of a diminution in her population and rateable value, and anything which can be done to encourage new industries or to develop those which already exist should commend itself to our Council.

Births

Two thousand and fifty-two children were born during the year, giving a birth-rate of 29.9 per 1,000 population. The decline in the birth-rate is universal, and we are no exception to the general rule. It is a matter of regret that five per cent. of our births are illegitimate, and that of these illegitimates no less than 34 are born in the workhouse. It is a fact that the mothers of these children are single offenders, but that they return for the purpose of child-birth under these circumstances to the Union Workhouse year after year.

Deaths

The total number of deaths was 1,271, of which 1,135 were really residents in West Bromwich. A detailed analysis of the causes will be found in the Report.

Zymotic Diseases

The total deaths from the principal Zymotic Diseases number 170, and is made up as follows:—Measles, 95; Scarlet Fever, 29; Diarrhœa and Enteritis, 31; Diphtheria and Croup, 9; Enteric Fever, 5; and Whooping Cough, 1.

It will be remembered that in the Report for 1906 attention was called to the existence of an epidemic of Measles upon the South-western boundary, which appeared likely to cross the line and invade West Bromwich. These anticipations were speedily verified, and during the earlier months of the year a considerable number of deaths occurred, amounting in all to 95. The first part of the epidemic was confined to the district between Hill Top and Greets Green, in which there were no less than 50 deaths; the second portion appeared to arise on the Smethwick boundary, and after attacking the Spon Lane district seemed to die out in the Lyng. This portion accounted for 30 deaths. Of the remainder 11 occurred in and about Mayers Green in a very small area, and the disease never got any hold in the direction of either the All Saints' district or the Beeches Road.

Measles

Twenty deaths were of children under one year of age, 73 were between one and five, and two only were of full school age.

No special steps were taken to deal with this outbreak. The Health Visitor had not yet been appointed, and as will be seen by the figures there was no indication to close the schools.

Special visits were made periodically by your Medical Officer to the infant schools in the areas most infected, notably to Black Lake, Golds Hill, and Spon Lane, and every assistance was given to the teachers in excluding suspicious cases from school. Under the new powers and duties of your Council as regards school inspection, it is probable that more thorough examination will take place.

The number of deaths occurring in the first year of life was 312, which is equal to 151 of every thousand children born. This total, though the lowest recorded, does not give the lowest average of deaths owing to the decline in the birth-rate. It compares not unfavourably with similar districts, though it is in excess of the urban rate for the County.

Deaths in the first year of life

As one of the chief objects in the appointment of a Health Visitor is to diminish the preventable causes of this mortality, it may be worth a detailed examination.

The Infectious Diseases are comparatively mild, and there are under one year of age only 24 cases, the highest figure being

Deaths in the
first year of
life

that for Measles, which is 20. The question of Measles will be fully discussed under the head of Infectious Disease.

Diarrhœa is responsible for 15 deaths, and Enteritis for 9, giving with other gastric troubles a grand total of 26, as against 61 last year. This number is low for West Bromwich, and may be considered largely due to the absence of dust during the summer and the consequent freedom from dust-borne and fly-borne pollution. It may be noticed that only one case among the causes so far noticed occurred in the first month of life.

In considering the prevention of this mortality, we find that of our 312 cases 116 died before reaching the end of the first month, 73 of whom died in the first seven days. By reference to Table V. it will be seen that a large proportion of these early deaths are not preventable. Thus of 62 children who came prematurely into the world 37 died in the first seven days and 51 in the first month, and in the same list may be included the 17 cases of congenital defects, 13 of whom died in the first month. To these may be added two who died in the first week of tuberculosis and eight who died directly after birth with convulsions, of whom three are uncertified. The total of these cases is 89 out of 312 or 28.5 per cent.

The measures to be taken with a view to the prevention of this mortality in the coming year will wholly depend upon the success of the new Act for the earlier notification of births which is now before the Council for adoption. It would be premature to express an opinion as to the effect for which we may hope, but if the measure is fairly treated and the Committee receive the co-operation of the public acting in conjunction with their Health Visitor, a marked improvement may be seen. If this is the case, it will be for the Council to consider the advisability of appointing additional Health Visitors. At the present time, with one only, it will be best to select a particular district and observe the results minutely.

It is distressing to record no less than six deaths of children overlain, and it is earnestly to be hoped that the efforts of education and the censure of the Coroner will abolish this cause of death; too often it is the result of gross carelessness or even worse conduct.

The Borough Coroner has held 107 Inquests, which are classified as follows:—Accidental Death, 56; Natural Causes, 31; Suicide, 10; Overlain, 9; and Scarlet Fever, 1. Inquests

The last case was one of malignant Scarlet Fever, which had not been under medical treatment, and which consequently had escaped notification. The death of the child proved the means of isolating cases and preventing an outbreak in that particular street.

Of the deaths from Accident and Suicide, 52 of the 65 were deaths of residents in the Borough, the rest being admitted to Hospital from outside districts. Accident and Suicide

Twenty-one deaths were registered as uncertified after enquiry by the Coroner, of whom five were under one year of age and nine between the ages of one and five.

The Public Institutions of the Borough are the Union Workhouse, with an average population of 800, and drawing cases from Handsworth, Oldbury, and Wednesbury; the District Hospital, which serves Oldbury, Wednesbury, and part of West Smethwick; the Isolation Hospital, which admits cases from Handsworth and Perry Barr; the District Schools, which serve Walsall, as well as West Bromwich Union, and the newly-established school for defectives at Sandwell Hall. The deaths in the Isolation Hospital will be analysed elsewhere. One non-resident death occurred in the Wigmore Schools, 68 in the District Hospital, and 204 in the Union Workhouse. Public Institutions

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The number of notifications received during the year was 931, and is composed as follows:—Scarlet Fever, 773; Enteric Fever, 37; Diphtheria and Croup, 31; and Erysipelas, 87. As there is a separate Report upon the epidemic of Scarlet Fever, no comment on those cases is here needed.

The 31 cases of Diphtheria and Croup represent a disease which by the common consent of the older practitioners of West Bromwich is rare amongst us; ten of the cases notified died, representing a high rate of mortality. One case which died in the District Hospital needs some comment. It arose in Langley, in the Urban District of Oldbury, and was there seen by two medical men, who sent it most unjustifiably to the Diphtheria and Croup

Diphtheria and Croup

District Hospital at West Bromwich. The House Surgeon of that Institution naturally declined to admit it, and without communicating either with the Medical Officer or the Matron sent it on to the Isolation Hospital. Here, also, it was refused admission, as at the time our wards were crowded with Scarlet Fever cases, and we have no provision for Diphtheria. The child was taken back to the District Hospital, where the House Surgeon performed the operation of tracheotomy, and the child died. The blame in this case, if any, must fall upon the private practitioners, who should have ascertained by telephone whether either of the Hospitals could receive the case before sending it. It is obvious that it could have no claim to be admitted into our Hospital, and application should have been made to the Local Sanitary Authority, and not to us.

Scarlet Fever

Considerable difficulty has arisen with regard to cases arising in the District Hospital suffering from Scarlet Fever. The first case appears to have been imported from Tipton, but as it was in our Hospital (which by the way does not admit Tipton cases, who are sent to Dudley) it was removed without question to the Isolation Hospital.

During the time that our own Hospital was full, two cases of Scarlet Fever arose in the District Hospital, one from Oldbury and one from Rowley; the dilemma then arose as to the disposition of these cases; it was impossible to take them in, as there was no accommodation for them at the time, and, besides, the cases were of a serious surgical character, for which the arrangements of our Isolation Hospital are not adapted. It was equally inconvenient that they should remain in Hospital. After a good deal of telephoning between the various Authorities, the cases were sent home to their own districts.

In all, six cases occurred in the children's ward of the District Hospital, and while fully admitting the responsibility for dealing with all such cases arising in the Hospital wherever they may be resident, if there is accommodation for them, your Medical Officer regrets that there is no isolation ward of any kind at the District Hospital into which suspicious cases could be removed, and which could also serve for the isolation of contacts.

The cases of Typhoid Fever were at the beginning of the year dealt with by removal, but latterly, when there was no ward for them, the services of the district nurses, who are subsidised by the Council, were requisitioned, with some additional help in the way of night attendants. Eight cases were treated in Hospital, with no deaths, and of the 29 nursed at home, five died. No particular locality was affected.

Typhoid
Fever

Of the 87 cases of Erysipelas, half were notified by two practitioners, many being of a mild and trivial type; the time of your inspectors is not wasted in visiting these cases. An unusual request was made for the admission of a case of Erysipelas into the Hospital, which, of course, could not be entertained. I am not aware that any such admission has been practised anywhere in the kingdom.

Erysipelas

TYPHOID FEVER STATISTICS.

Ward.			No. of cases.		No. of deaths.	
Spon Lane	...	...	8	...	2	
Town Hall	...	...	1	...	—	
Greets Green	...	...	8	...	2	
Hill Top...	...	...	11	...	1	
Lyndon ...	...	...	8	...	—	
Sandwell	...	...	1	...	—	
			—		—	
Total	...	...	37	...	5	

Treated in Hospital, 8; died in Hospital, none.

THE EPIDEMIC OF SCARLET FEVER.

It will be within the recollection of your Council that at the commencement of the year, in the consideration of the estimates for the Hospital, your Medical Officer predicted an outbreak of Scarlet Fever. This prediction, while agreeing with the opinions of other Medical Officers in the district, notably the Medical Officer of Birmingham, was based upon the consideration of past epidemics, and in detailing the history of the year, as regards Scarlet Fever, it will be convenient to remind you of past history.

Scarlet Fever

During the past eighteen years, it will be seen from the Table appended to this Report, that Scarlet Fever has been prevalent in waves, and that while we can never congratulate

Scarlet Fever

ourselves upon complete freedom from its attack, as it would appear we are able to do in the case of Measles and Whooping Cough, we can yet distinguish a sort of law which governs its periodicity, and predict to some extent the time of its onset.

This period seems to be about five years to five and a half, and it will be within the memory of all that our last visitation was in the year 1902, when no less than 1,046 cases were notified in West Bromwich, and when the epidemic was shared by all the surrounding districts. The complete history of this outbreak will be found in my Reports for 1902 and 1903, together with comparative statements affecting other towns.

Thus it will be seen that the year 1901 was the bottom year in a descending series, and it was followed by a year in which the top note of Scarlet Fever was reached by a record of 1,046 notifications.

From that year we again commence a descending series of four years, terminating in 1906 with the low figure of 162, and continuing to decline up to the middle of 1907, when the epidemic commenced.

The experience of Birmingham has been somewhat similar to our own, with the exception of the fact that Dr. Robertson expects the maximum to be reached next year, and that it would appear as if the disease was a little in advance of his anticipations. At the same time it is almost unprecedented that the Urban District of Handsworth, lying between Birmingham and ourselves, and intimately connected with the former city, should have escaped. Thus, while the West Bromwich cases for the year have exceeded 750, the cases notified in Handsworth have only amounted to about 200.

Progress of
the Disease

The detailed report of the progress of the disease and the measures adopted for its suppression may now be related:—

In the first three months of the year we received notice of 44 cases only, and were able to isolate 37 of these. One case died out of Hospital and none in the Institution, which may be regarded as satisfactory. There were thus only six cases left at home, which might possibly have been centres for future infection.

In the second quarter of the year there were notified 100 cases, of which we were able to isolate 89 in the Hospital. There were two deaths outside and two inside the Hospital, thus leaving only nine cases unaccounted for and giving an isolation record of nearly 90 per cent. for the six months, while the cases not removed were watched at home and isolation practised as far as could be ensured.

The employment of modern methods of disinfection and the complete cleansing of infected rooms and houses, together with the disinfection of clothes, with the child, and the destruction of books and toys, was carried out with great rigour.

So far, the disease was well in hand and presented itself in a sporadic character, no one portion of the town being more affected than the other.

The third quarter requires a more detailed report:— For the first eight weeks the disease presented the same features as in the preceding quarter, *i.e.*, up to the end of the week ending August 24th; up to this date there were 88 cases notified, of which 77 were removed to Hospital, and two cases died in the North-west district, leaving nine unaccounted for, and maintaining the average of isolation.

The period of epidemic now commenced, with the week ending Aug. 31st, as will be seen in the appended Tables.

During the period of fifteen weeks ending Dec. 7th, there were reported 500 cases, or an average of 33 cases per week. With this number it was manifestly impossible to deal by ordinary hospital isolation. As far as possible the cases were removed from those houses in which there was not accommodation for a separate room for the sick child or children, or where the father was prevented by the rules of his factory from going to work, or in homes where some trade or manufacture was carried on. In this way 194 cases were isolated and the houses carefully disinfected.

During the concluding weeks of the year the pressure was relaxed and the notifications once more reduced to dimensions within our control. It only remains to speak of the results of hospital isolation as evidenced by the preceding facts before detailing the other efforts made to control the spread of the epidemic.

Progress of
the Disease

Of the 425 cases treated in Hospital, we have lost 12 only, while 13 deaths have occurred outside. The type of disease has been fairly mild, even in the case of the few adults who have been attacked. The complications have been few and of comparatively small importance.

Apart from the removal to Hospital, which must inevitably break down under such pressure, other measures were adopted. The District Inspectors visited every case notified and reported the details of the house and the family; in cases of special import the visit was confirmed by the Chief Inspector, and every effort was made to impress upon the parents the danger of permitting the infected child to mix with other children. This was attended with great difficulty in the Guns Village district, in which the disease was particularly prevalent, and where it very seriously affected the attendance at the schools. Your Medical Officer visited the various departments of Guns Village School, and repeated visits were also made by our newly-appointed Health Visitor, but no action was taken in closing the schools. Your Medical Officer, being also the Schools Examiner of the Education Committee, was able to keep thoroughly in touch with the schools.

Visits to
Schools

In addition to the visits paid to Guns Village School, mentioned above, visits and detailed examinations were made at Roebuck Street, Black Lake, Greets Green, and Spon Lane, but only one or two suspicious cases were detected, and even these were open to some doubt.

School
Closure

Your Medical Officer has hesitated to advise school closure for many reasons: —

(1) While the children are attending school it is easy to examine them in detail and to exclude doubtful cases, which can subsequently be followed up by the Attendance Officers and the Health Visitor.

(2) Where the disease is prevalent in crowded areas, such as the Guns Village district, the children mix quite as much out of school as in it.

(3) The power to close schools is confined to the elementary school and does not extend to private adventure schools or to Sunday Schools. Your Medical Officer has been met with a

refusal to close such schools in the past, and does not desire to find himself again in conflict with the ministers of religion on this point.

School
Closure

(4) The systematic examination of the schools and the rigorous exclusion of doubtful children and children from infected houses can be best carried out with the active co-operation of the school teachers and while they are actually at the head of their classes.

The process of disinfection has been carried out in some instances with formalin and in others with sulphur, and all clothes have been treated in an Equifex machine. All Library books have been transferred to the Hospital or burned.

Disinfection

The lesson of this outbreak is instructive from the point of view of Hospital controversy. So long as the high proportion of isolation could be maintained, for so long was it possible to keep the spread of the disease under control. When it became apparent that we were no longer able to keep pace with the epidemic, various remedies were suggested. It was proposed that the Smallpox Hospital should be utilised; that tents should be put up; or that additional buildings should be provided. Your Medical Officer was unable to assent to these steps. The Hospital is adequate for your ordinary needs. A serious warning has been given as to the dangers of overcrowding it, a danger of which your Medical Officer is well aware. The idea of erecting additional temporary buildings and providing additional nurses, for whom there is not accommodation in the administrative block of the Hospital, is not one of which I approve. In the future, when the new buildings now approaching completion are finished, it may be possible to provide emergency nurses, but until that time the views expressed by Dr. Spencer Lowe on his recent visit and enquiry must be respected as far as circumstances will permit.

Hospital
Controversy

The crowded condition of the Hospital during the epidemic has been productive of no special evils as far as the inmates were concerned, but the limit was reached and could not be exceeded, nor was it a proper course to open a Hospital not built for Scarlet Fever and expose the town to the possible danger of Smallpox without means of prompt isolation.

Notifications and Admissions	Week ending		Notifi- cations.		Admis- sions.		Week ending		Notifi- cations.		Admis- sions.	
	Jan.	5	...	4	3		July	6	...	5	5	
	,,	12	...	4	4		,,	13	...	19	19	
	,,	19	...	1	1		,,	20	...	11	10	
	,,	26	...	2	2		,,	27	...	7	4	
	Feb.	2	...	5	5		Aug.	3	...	10	9	
	,,	9	...	3	3		,,	10	...	11	9	
	,,	16	...	4	2		,,	17	...	12	7	
	,,	23	...	5	3		,,	24	...	13	10	
	Mar.	2	...	4	5		,,	31	...	23	20	
	,,	9	...	4	3		Sept.	7	...	32	23	
	,,	16	...	3	4		,,	14	...	30	11	
	,,	23	...	2	1		,,	21	...	39	12	
	,,	30	...	3	2		,,	28	...	26	7	
	April	6	...	5	5		Oct.	5	...	29	13	
	,,	13	...	5	5		,,	12	...	50	14	
	,,	20	...	3	3		,,	19	...	64	12	
	,,	27	...	5	4		,,	26	...	45	8	
	May	4	...	6	5		Nov.	2	...	34	17	
	,,	11	...	9	8		,,	9	...	31	9	
	,,	18	...	11	9		,,	16	...	22	12	
	,,	25	...	10	9		,,	23	...	33	11	
	June	1	...	8	8		,,	30	...	25	13	
	,,	8	...	9	8		Dec.	7	...	15	11	
	,,	15	...	13	10		,,	14	...	11	7	
	,,	22	...	8	8		,,	21	...	17	13	
	,,	29	...	8	7		,,	28	...	9	6	

SCARLET FEVER RECORDS.

Year.		Notifications.	Admissions.	Deaths.
1890	...	378	196	15
1891	...	208	121	9
1892	...	55	42	4
1893	...	262	113	15
1894	...	83	48	4
1895	...	155	124	18
1896	...	320	212	32
1897	...	346	218	21
1898	...	352	257	9
1899	...	213	153	8

Year.		Notifications.	Admissions.	Deaths.	Notifications and Admissions
1900	...	182	171	5	
1901	...	120	98	4	
1902	...	1046	370	64	
1903	...	320	142	24	
1904	...	128	86	10	
1905	...	174	118	11	
1906	...	162	147	5	
1907	...	773	419	29	

THE EPIDEMIC OF MEASLES.

An interim report on Measles was presented to the Committee and the Local Government Board on May 27th, in which the whole of the outbreak was discussed. The following is a summary of the Report:—

The earliest mortality was reported in Greets Green Ward, a part of the Borough which has been known as the starting point of more than one epidemic, but in this instance the disease got no hold. Six cases occurred in two weeks, one being that of an adult. In the fifth week of the year there was a cessation, and no further cases occurred in this district.

Summary

In the following week three fatal cases were recorded in the Golds Hill district, close to the Tipton boundary, and from this starting point the epidemic advanced up the hill to Hill Top, and established a hold there during the ninth and tenth weeks of the year, dying out gradually in the thirteenth week.

So far, the rest of the Borough had been almost exempt, one case only being recorded elsewhere, and that doubtful; but in the tenth week an entirely distinct invasion took place upon the boundary of West Smethwick. Measles was known to have been prevalent in Smethwick and in Oldbury, and an attack was not unforeseen; it was wholly apart from the epidemic then raging in Hill Top, quite two miles from the seat of the first cases occurring in Spon Lane. This outbreak began in the tenth week, and lasted only three weeks, at the end of which it appeared to cease as suddenly as it had begun. The rest of the outbreak was comprised in the history of a few sporadic fatal cases, of which there were rarely two in the same street.

Summary

The deaths occurring in the first two quarters of the year amounted to 81, which were distributed in age periods as follows:—

Under one year	...	...	...	16
Between one and two years	...	...	...	35
„ two and three	„	...	...	13
„ three and four	„	...	...	7
„ four and five	„	...	...	8
„ five and six	„	...	...	2
One adult	...	...	...	1

One death occurred in the case of a non-resident, and a few at the end of the year in an entirely separate outbreak.

It cannot, unfortunately, be stated that any preventive measures were undertaken by the Sanitary Authority in connection with this epidemic. Regular reports were received from the schools which were the centres from time to time affected, and visits of inspection were paid to them with a view of sending home any child in attendance actually suffering from or apparently sickening for Measles.

As nearly every case recorded occurred in children under five years of age, none but the infant departments were inspected. It was found by enquiry that the large majority of the children over five years of age attending school had had Measles; and in the infant schools it was the babies' class in which most absentees were reported.

The Education Committee have followed the Brighton rule, and now the Council have appointed a Woman Health Visitor, from which appointment great results are hoped. It is also much to be desired that the attendance of children under five should be discouraged, but so far there appears to be little hope of this being done, unless the system of grants is re-arranged.

THE HEALTH VISITOR.

Systematic Visitation

The Sanitary Committee having become convinced that the best method of dealing with the question of appointing a Woman as Health Visitor, took the opportunity of the resignation of one of your Inspectorial Staff to appoint such. Miss Staples, of Middlesbrough, was elected, and commenced her

duties on the 1st October. In the absence of any special cause of infant mortality, and pending the adoption of the Notification of Births Act, upon which your Committee has now decided, and which it is to be hoped will be in force early in 1908, the Medical Officer desired her to undertake a systematic visitation of the infant schools of the Borough, and thus to familiarise herself not only with the teachers, but, what is more important, to obtain the confidence of the mothers in the poorer districts.

Systematic
Visitation

In the course of this round of inspections, Miss Staples visited at their homes 180 cases of absent children, and rendered much excellent service in her directions as to the cure of ringworm, the prevention of verminous heads, and the trifling ailments of children who were not under medical treatment; in a large number of cases the attendance of a medical man was advised, and the profession may feel secure that she will under no circumstances diminish the need for their services; but, on the contrary, will tend to increase it.

Directing
Cure of
Ringworm,
etc.

It is at times good to see ourselves as others see us who have not had previous experience of the Black Country and its people, and it is gratifying to learn that as regards housing and cleanliness we are quite as well off, if not better, than some of the large towns. Most of the children were found to be breast-fed, and while it has been necessary to insist upon a better type of feeding-bottle than that in use, the advice has been well received. The main difficulty has been to induce the women to make use of their opportunities for letting fresh air circulate in their houses, and more especially in their bedrooms.

Cleanliness

THE MIDWIVES' ACT.

There are 34 registered midwives on the roll for West Bromwich, all of whom have been under supervision during the year. One death has taken place, leaving the number at 33.

We have, unfortunately, only three properly trained midwives, the rest having been in practice and been registered under the Act.

Trained
Midwives

Some of these are obviously getting too old to continue in practice, but there appears to be no way of hindering them. Others show comparatively little regard for the regulations of

the Central Board as regards the use of disinfectants, thermometer, etc.

Cautions

Four of these have been cautioned as to the observance of the regulations, and one has been reported to the Committee, who have summoned her to attend and explain her action.

The valuable co-operation of the Coroner is of great assistance in all suspicious cases, and there is every hope that by the time 1910 arrives a better class of woman will have been found to undertake so important a work. Further assistance may also be expected from the compulsory registration of stillbirths under the Act about to be adopted.

THE BOROUGH HOSPITALS.

Smallpox Hospital

The Smallpox Hospital at Friar Park is still without its first inmate, and long may it so remain. The equipment is regularly inspected by the Matron, and the buildings have been periodically visited by the Medical Officer.

Isolation Hospital

The work of the Isolation Hospital has been exceptionally heavy, as will have been apparent from the reports upon the cases of Typhoid and Scarlet Fever earlier in this Report. In spite of the discomfort which has of necessity attended the building operations, all the staff have worked most heartily and loyally, and the results have been excellent. The new building is almost completed, and the nurses were able to hold their Christmas dinner in the new room, although the luxuries of carpet or boarded floor were denied them.

The number of inmates during the year was 481, of whom 427 were West Bromwich cases; 38 were admitted from Handsworth and 8 from Perry Barr. Of the eight cases of Enteric Fever all recovered. Of the 473 cases of Scarlet Fever there were 13 deaths, being a case mortality of 3 per cent. This may be regarded as satisfactory.

The chief complications have been aural discharge and glandular abscess, and in one case a very severe attack of eczema, which caused a great amount of anxiety to the nurse in charge of the case.

Donations and Presents

The friends of the children and of the Medical Officer were generous at Christmas, and we have gratefully to acknowledge the kindness of the "Free Press" Fund in giving a hand-

some donation for Christmas toys and presents to the children. Messrs. Defries, of London, sent a crate of oranges, and Messrs. Mason, Williams and Co. also remembered the little ones.

Donations
and Presents

THE SANITARY STATE OF THE BOROUGH.

It is always good to see our own town with the eyes of strangers and to be able to compare it with others. Its situation is in the centre of a large body of population, surrounded by other districts of similar habits and occupations. Perched upon the scarp of a crescentic hill, it is necessary to travel uphill to it from every side, the maximum height above sea level being 570 feet. It is accordingly swept by all winds except the south, and is exposed to the full force of the east wind as it comes direct from the uplands of Cannock Chase.

Situation

Its streets are well made, its side-walks mostly paved; it is well lighted by both electricity and gas; the water supply, derived from the S.S. Waterworks, is abundant, and as revealed by repeated analysis is of great organic purity.

Lighting, etc.

The milk supply is mainly derived from the farms of North Staffordshire and Cheshire, and arrives by train. It is as good as train milk usually is, but of course it is exposed at the station to risks of every description, and the way in which it is treated, decanted, and strained is not calculated to inspire confidence in it.

Milk Supply

The town is by no means over-crowded, as the north-eastern portion is largely made up of agricultural land, and the amount of air-space round the houses is mostly sufficient. There are one or two places in which there is a great opportunity for a town improvement, but the estimated cost has hitherto deterred the Council from seriously approaching the question. Diseases of occupation are absent, and as most of the inhabitants are engaged in works it is pleasing to record that as a rule the places of work are well kept and well ventilated.

Air-space

The process of converting the town from the condition of a privy-midden town to the water-carriage system has been going on steadily for the past twenty years, and steady progress has been made. A complete system of sewers exists, and there is an efficient Sewage Farm on the lower side of the district, which is able to take the sewage of the Borough, with the excep-

Conversion of
Privy-
middens, etc.

Conversion of
Privy-
middens, etc.

tion of a small rural area, the levels of which are unfavourable. The result of this conversion has been materially to increase the number of dustbins, and to call attention to the nuisance caused by depositing dry refuse on tips, whence it is dispersed by the wind. The Committee have now decided to erect a destructor, and it will be proceeded with as fast as possible.

The pollution of the River Tame by the Borough is now practically a thing of the past, and the effluent has been pronounced superior to the stream into which it is discharged.

General
Condition

It will thus be seen that as far as its general condition goes, the position and supplies of the town are favourable to long and healthy lives, and though exposed to the east wind, it is fairly well housed and fed. The prevalence of lung diseases is not difficult to understand, and these make up a large portion of the preventable mortality, especially among the children.

Registered
Cowkeepers

In addition to the rail-borne milk, there are in the Borough no less than twenty-five registered cowkeepers. The fact that of these as many as nineteen have land upon which to keep cows inside our boundaries shows to what an extent our area is still open and free from overcrowding, and it cannot be denied that in this matter we are fortunate. It is to be noticed with regret that the more rural in character the cowshed the less pains are bestowed upon the construction, ventilation, and drainage of the same. All these cowsheds are under systematic inspection, and are in a fair condition, although there is still place for improvement.

Meat Supply

The meat supply is partly derived from outside sources, partly from frozen meat, and partly from animals killed in the Borough. The slaughter-houses used for this purpose are many of them badly situated, and are difficult of supervision, but thanks to the care and vigilance of our special inspector, a strict supervision is maintained.

The only case which it has been necessary to carry before a magistrate this year was in connection with two carcasses markedly affected with tubercle and discovered in the cellar adjoining a butcher's shop.

There was every reason to believe that these animals had been slaughtered surreptitiously during the night and their

carcases removed to the cellar of the house adjoining, which is a licensed house, until they could be conveyed to Bilston market.

Meat Supply

The case was heard before the Stipendiary Magistrate, who convicted, but only imposed what seemed to us an inadequate penalty of £5, with ample time for payment.

The old common lodging house in Paradise Street had been for a long time falling into disrepair, and it was found necessary to apply the provisions of the Housing of the Working Classes Act to it. As it formed a series of small cottages used as weekly lodgings, it was not possible, pending the adoption of the bye-laws, which are still under consideration, to take other proceedings. The houses were closed, and the business transferred to the neighbouring township of Oldbury, where it has been compelled to be registered as a common lodging house.

Common Lodging Houses

The inspection of the workshops, and especially the bake-houses, has been systematically performed during the year, and your Medical Officer has received eight reports of defects from the Home Office Inspector, all of which have received prompt attention.

Workshops

The details of the work done by the department will be found in the Reports which are appended, and which show the progress which is being made in the conversion of privies and the abatement of nuisances.

The Tables required by the Local Government Board and additional statistics will be found in their places.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

The following Table shows the number of children examined at the Education Offices, in conjunction with the Schools Attendance Officers:—

Children Examined

	1906.	1907.
Diseases of Eye	40	70
Diseases of Ear	4	4
Verminous Heads	4	4
Heart Disease	2	2
Consumption	3	2
Itch	3	4

Children Examined				1906.	1907.
	Ringworm	...	...	3	—
	Other Diseases	...	...	10	4
	Defective or Epileptic	...	...	33	17
	No disease found	...	...	3	6
				<hr/>	<hr/>
				75	115
				<hr/>	<hr/>

Examined at Workhouse for Truant School, 16.

Visits to Schools.

Visits to
Schools

1906 :—Six detailed inspections, including special visit to Spon Lane School *re* drainage and ventilation.

1907 :—Ten inspections of the whole schools *re* Defective Children, Measles, and Scarlet Fever.

TABLE I.—VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1907 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.						Deaths of Non- residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all ages belonging to the District.
		Number.	Rate.	Under 1 Year of Age.			At all Ages.					
				Number	Rate per 1000 Births registered	6.	7.		8.			
							5.	6.					7.	Rate.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.
1897	62920	2280	36.4	398	175	1347	21.4	239	104	Not recorded.	1243	19.7
1898	63490	2269	35.7	415	182	1360	21.4	239	112		1148	18.0
1899	64060	2364	36.8	425	179	1307	20.4	207	99		1203	18.8
1900	64630	2242	34.2	439	191	1453	22.4	256	106		1347	20.8
1901	65200	2229	34.0	363	163	1211	18.5	205	88		1123	17.2
1902	65910	2287	34.6	372	162	1433	21.7	255	126		1307	19.3
1903	66560	2193	33.9	376	164	1199	18.1	223	106		1093	16.3
1904	67190	2254	33.5	337	149	1172	17.4	239	103	7	1076	15.9
1905	67820	2137	31.5	321	150	1255	18.5	280	127	6	1134	16.7
1906	68470	2171	31.6	347	159	1205	17.5	272	142	12	1075	15.6
Averages for years 1897-1906		2242	34.2	379	167	1294	19.7	241	111		1174	17.8
1907	69120	2052	29.9	312	151	1271	18.4	303	139	4	1136	16.4

TABLE II.

I. Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District.	II. Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District.
Union Workhouse Poor Law Schools Sandwell School Infectious Hospital Smallpox Hospital District Hospital	Children's Hospital, Birmingham Queen's Hospital, Birmingham General Hospital, Birmingham Private Hospital, Birmingham Private Hospital, Handsworth

TABLE III.
CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING
THE YEAR 1907.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in whole District, at all Ages.	No. of Cases removed to Hospital.
Smallpox 	Nil	Nil
Cholera 	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	31	Nil
Erysipelas 	87	Nil
Scarlet Fever 	773	420
Typhus Fever 	Nil	Nil
Enteric Fever 	37	8
Relapsing Fever 	Nil	Nil
Continued Fever 	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Fever 	3	Nil
Plague 	Nil	Nil
Total 	931	428

TABLE IV.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1907.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths in or belonging to whole District at subjoined Ages.							Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.
	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.
Measles	95	20	73	2	...	..	...	1
Scarlet Fever	29	2	18	9	...	...	...	13
Whooping Cough	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	9	1	8	...	...	..	...	1
Enteric Fever	5	...	...	1	2	2	...	...
Epidemic Influenza	6	1	2	...	...	2	1	...
Diarrhœa	29	26	3	...	...	...	...	1
Enteritis	4	...	2	...	...	1	1	...
Puerperal Fever	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Erysipelas	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Other Septic Diseases ..	3	...	...	...	1	2	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	51	...	...	4	5	40	2	20
Other Tubercular Diseases	36	12	14	6	1	3	...	2
Cancer, Malignant Disease	36	...	...	...	...	22	14	15
Bronchitis	135	49	16	...	...	28	42	17
Pneumonia	99	21	20	8	7	30	13	12
Pleurisy	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	7	2	..	...	1	1	3	...
Alcoholism—Cirrhosis of Liver	9	...	...	...	...	9	...	4
Venereal Diseases	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Birth	62	62	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Heart Diseases	74	5	4	4	7	38	16	21
Accidents	42	6	7	5	5	14	5	46
Suicides	9	...	...	...	...	8	1	2
All Other Causes	388	102	24	14	10	98	140	147
All Causes	1136	312	191	54	40	301	238	303

TABLE V.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1907.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under one Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.			Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months	2-3 Months	3-4 Months	4-5 Months	5-6 Months	6-7 Months	7-8 Months	8-9 Months	9-10 Months	10-11 Months	11-12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 Year
ALL CAUSES	Certified ...	...	70	23	13	7	113	38	24	15	15	13	14	11	17	13	12	22	307
	Uncertified	...	3	.	.	...	3	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Measles ...			.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	2	3	3	7	20
Scarlet Fever ...			...	...	...	...	...	...	.	...	.	...	...	...	..	1	1	...	2
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) ...			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Whooping Cough ...			...	...	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diarrhoea, all forms ...			...	...	...	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	1	2	1	...	1	...	15
Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis ...			...	...	.	...	...	1	2	1	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	2	9
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh ...			...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Premature Birth ...			37	8	5	1	51	8	1	1	1	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
Congenital Defects ...			12	...	1	...	13	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Want of Breast Milk, Starvation ...			...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus			8	7	3	...	18	7	5	3	1	3	1	...	2	...	...	...	40
Tuberculous Meningitis ...			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tuberculous Peritonitis : Tabes Mesenterica			2	...	...	.	2	1	1	2	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	8
Other Tuberculous Diseases			..	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
Syphilis ...			...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Rickets ...			...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	6
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)...			...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2
Convulsions ...			8	...	...	3	11	1	2	2	4	2	...	1	...	1	1	1	26
Bronchitis ...			2	2	1	1	6	10	2	1	4	4	5	2	7	4	1	3	49
Pneumonia ...			...	2	...	...	2	3	2	...	...	...	2	1	2	2	2	5	21
Suffocation, overlying			1	..	...	1	2	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Other Causes			3	3	2	...	8	...	1	2	1	...	...	2	1	...	3	...	18
			73	23	13	7	116	39	24	15	16	13	14	11	17	13	12	22	312

TABLE VI.

PARTICULARS AS TO ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER
FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.*No. of Workshops on Register at end of 1907:—*

Workshop Bakehouses...	...	...	...	80
Breeze Banks	...	...	...	12
Dressmaking and Tailoring Establishments			...	31
Miscellaneous Trades ...	...	...	...	61
Total				<u>184</u>

PARTICULARS OF DEFECTS FOUND.

Nuisances under Public Health Acts:—

Want of Cleanliness	...	...	...	4
Sanitary Accommodation—				
Unsuitable or Defective	...	...	...	4
Total				<u>8</u>

Eight references were made by H.M. Inspector as to matters remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory Acts.

Sanitary Inspector's Report,

FOR THE YEAR 1907.

To the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

INTRODUCTION.

I have the honour to submit my Ninth Annual Report as Sanitary Inspector for the County Borough of West Bromwich.

At the commencement of the year under review there seemed every prospect that the progress hitherto made would not only be maintained, but be considerably accelerated. Owing, however, to the changes occasioned by the successive appointments of the Junior Assistant Inspector and the Meat Inspector to positions elsewhere, to the circumstance that only one of these vacancies was filled up, and to the prolonged epidemic of Scarlet Fever, our anticipations have not been realised, although, as will be seen from the statistics appended hereto, much useful work has been effected.

The Inspectorial Staff now consists of District Inspectors Cotterell and Kingston, the latter of whom also devotes a certain amount of his time to meat inspection, and myself; and in point of numbers is lower than at any period since July, 1896, and this notwithstanding the fact that the inspection of Dairies and Cowsheds, of Canal Boats, and Common Lodging Houses, formerly undertaken by other officers, have since 1899 been carried out by this Department.

I am pleased to be able to testify to the loyal and efficient manner in which the Assistant Inspectors have carried out all duties entrusted to them.

GENERAL SANITARY WORK.

HOUSE-TO-HOUSE INSPECTIONS.

The systematic sanitary survey was resumed in March last, and carried on until the changes and reduction in the staff above referred to rendered its continuance impracticable. The localities selected were the Lyng district, situate in Spon Lane

and Town Hall Wards; the Swan Village portion of Greets Green Ward; and Pikehelve Street, in Hill Top Ward. Seven hundred and sixteen houses, in 17 streets, with a population of 2,529, were examined in detail, and a considerable number of structural defects, as well as nuisances arising from carelessness on the part of occupiers, were brought to light, and subsequently dealt with. The whole of the work was carried on without any appreciable friction, and some very useful improvements have, as a result, since been executed.

MISCELLANEOUS INSPECTIONS.

A large number of premises have been visited in consequence of complaints received, whilst in addition the customary periodical inspections of common yards have taken place. These last-named inspections are very necessary in order that cleanliness of yards and sanitary conveniences may be maintained.

Special assistance was rendered to the Board of Trade Commissioner who visited the district in December last for the purpose of investigating the cost of living for the working classes of West Bromwich, and I have since received a letter from the Commissioner expressing his thanks for the aid given.

The total number of miscellaneous inspections made during the year has been 8,102.

DRAIN TESTING.

The smoke test has been applied to drains on 15 occasions, and only once with a negative result. Special reports were sent to owners and occupiers on each occasion, and the suggestions made as to remedial measures were usually adopted without demur. Several remarkable instances of inferior workmanship were brought to light as a result of these tests.

The hydraulic test was, at the request of an owner, applied to the drains of premises used as a Government office.

NOTICES SERVED.

Particulars of the 1,496 preliminary notices served are given in Table II.

After the expiration of a period specified in the notice, the premises were visited by the District Inspectors or myself, and

some 296 circulars or letters were subsequently forwarded to owners or agents, where notices had not been complied with. In cases where abatement of nuisances was not secured, the premises were formally reported by me, and acting on your instructions 141 statutory notices were served. Of this number 70 were served under the Public Health Acts, the 71 remaining notices being given in accordance with the clauses of the Corporation Act of 1900.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED.

In Table III. details are given of the various sanitary improvements effected as a result of the work of the Department. In addition to the temporary measures resorted to when dealing with recurring nuisances, a large number of substantial permanent structural alterations have taken place. The total number of nuisances abated was 2,358.

Filthy and Dilapidated Houses.

The interiors of 303 houses have been cleansed and white-washed, general repairs to plastering, woodwork, or brickwork taking place in 183 cases. Sixty-five filthy and dilapidated outbuildings have been put in order, and in several instances advantage has been taken of the fact that the insanitary brick sink was in need of repair to induce owners to substitute the more satisfactory earthenware convenience.

Surface Paving and Draining in Yards.

The paving of 43 yards has been extended, re-laid, or repaired. Nine premises previously unconnected with the sewer have been properly drained, one of the few remaining cesspools in Crankhall Lane also being dispensed with. One hundred and thirty-four lengths of stoneware pipe drains have been provided for 536 houses. One hundred and twenty-three inspection or access chambers have been fixed on such drains, and 277 gully traps provided for the surface drainage.

Disused Wells.

The disused wells, of which 98 are known to us, have been kept under careful supervision, and in nine instances owners have filled in same. In four instances, however, where preliminary notices failed to induce compliance, notices were served under Section 47 of the Corporation Act of 1900, and

orders taken for execution of work in default. It was not necessary, however, to carry proceedings beyond this stage, as the owners then put the work in hand in each instance.

Privy and Water-closet Accommodation.

The work of converting privies into water-closets still continues to make fair progress. During the past year 356 water-closets have been substituted for 332 privies. In 20 instances owners repaired existing privies, but this expedient is now generally regarded as obsolete and useless. Within recent years, too, occupiers have become less tolerant as regards the practice of storing decomposing urine and excrement in close proximity to their houses, and are now very anxious for the substitution of the more hygienic water-carriage system.

Sixty-seven official representations were made under Section 66 of the West Bromwich Corporation Act, 1900, and in 41 instances orders were subsequently given for the execution of the work. It was only found requisite, however, to adopt this course in 12 cases.

It is interesting, in view of the argument at one time adduced against the extension of the water-closet system to the effect that stoppages would abound, and that the flushing apparatus, etc., would always be out of order, to note that out of the 7,549 water-closets in the Borough only 227 cases of stoppage, or 3 per cent., and 97 cases of defective w.-c. connections, or 1.2 per cent., were dealt with. The stoppages, too, were usually temporary in character, and generally removed by occupiers.

OCCUPIERS' NOTICES.

As in past years every effort has been made to discriminate nuisances occasioned by neglect of occupiers from those due to defective or improper construction, and for which owners are responsible; and out of the 1,496 preliminary notices served 545 have been addressed to occupiers. These have mainly had reference to overcrowding and the filthy condition of houses or outbuildings.

The number of cases of overcrowding reported on during the present year shows no diminution. The evil of sub-letting is still prevalent, and one of the worst cases coming under our

notice was one in which a front living room was sub-let for living and sleeping purposes to a family consisting of man, wife, son (17), and three younger children, the remainder of the house being in the occupation of a family ten in number.

Our difficulties in dealing with these cases are intensified by the absence of suitable bye-laws.

Whilst the utmost leniency is manifested as regards the keeping of animals, action has had to be taken in several cases, where the occupiers of common yards have allowed fowls or ducks kept in a filthy condition to wander freely in and out of the houses of their neighbours.

The doctrine of common responsibility for the cleansing of sanitary conveniences used jointly has been enforced with considerable frequency, but without resort to legal proceedings.

HOUSES UNFIT FOR HABITATION.

In consequence of complaints received, I made a detailed inspection of certain houses in Paradise Street used as a lodging house, or as houses let in lodgings. These were subsequently certified by the Medical Officer of Health as unfit for human habitation, and authority was taken for immediate proceedings to enforce closure. The owner, however, anticipated the issue of a summons by closing the houses himself and removing his business to premises situate in an adjoining district.

One of the very few occupied single room tenements in the Borough was also closed by the owner, upon my verbal request, and has since been converted into an outbuilding.

WATER SUPPLY.

Eight samples of water from wells were taken during the year, unfavourable reports being made in five instances. Notices were subsequently served on owners, and in four cases premises were connected with the South Staffordshire Co.'s supply.

INSPECTION OF SLAUGHTER HOUSES AND FOOD SUPPLY.

Although the average quality of meat sold in this district is superior to that offered for sale in many similar localities, careful supervision continues to be maintained, and some very useful work in this respect was accomplished by the late Meat Inspector (Mr. Topping) and his successor (Mr. Kingston).

One thousand five hundred and ninety-seven visits have been made to slaughter-houses during the year, and 2,219 sides and 1,012 quarters of beef, and the carcasses of 4,699 sheep, lambs, calves, or pigs have been examined, whilst 2,932 live animals have also been inspected. Thirty-nine carcasses of beef were found to be more or less affected with tuberculosis and in six cases the whole of the carcasses were destroyed, the disease being generalised in character.

The following is the approximate quantity of meat destroyed:—

Beef, diseased or unsound...	...	3,356	lbs.
Pork	„ „ ...	897	„
Mutton	„ „ ...	36½	„
		<hr/>	
		4,289½	„
or 1 ton 18 cwt. 33½ lbs.			

Although a considerable proportion of the above meat was surrendered by the respective owners, it was found necessary in seven cases to obtain formal orders of condemnation by magistrates, and in one case where the carcasses of two emaciated tuberculous cows had been concealed in a cellar, proceedings were instituted, the defendant being fined £5 and costs.

Attention has also been directed to other articles of food, some 202 lbs. of fish were condemned and destroyed on magistrates' orders, but in these instances formal seizure did not occur. A small seizure of rabbits was effected, a larger number being surrendered and destroyed at the request of the owner.

In addition to the visits paid to slaughter-houses, 1,486 visits were paid to butchers' shops, and 431 to fish and game shops. Periodical inspections are also made of kitchens attached to restaurants.

One new slaughter-house license has been granted during the year, and there are now 37 slaughter-houses on the register, of which 14 are subject to annual licenses.

INSPECTION OF BAKEHOUSES.

There are 60 bakehouses on the register, which are regularly visited. Notices with respect to limewashing are sent half-yearly, and these, as a rule, receive prompt attention. The proportion of bakehouses of the domestic variety, *i.e.*, those in

which the members of one family are employed, is rather large, and as in most cases the bakehouse is merely the scullery or washhouse, bread is not produced under the most ideal conditions.

INSPECTION OF COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

Seven applications have been made for premises to be registered as milkshops or dairies, all of which were granted. There are now 29 cowsheds and 94 milkshops or dairies on the list.

These premises have been periodically inspected by me during the year, and the importance of observing the regulations has been impressed upon the respective occupiers.

It is distinctly regrettable that in several cases the objectionable system of storing large masses of manure in the open space immediately adjoining the shed is still persisted in, and that so little attention is bestowed upon the cows themselves as far as regular and systematic grooming is concerned.

Speaking generally, the milk is stored and sold under better conditions than at one time prevailed, but the practice of keeping milk in general shops in proximity to articles likely to produce souring of the milk, or to encourage the dispersal of dust is very unsatisfactory, and additional powers of regulation in this respect are extremely desirable.

INSPECTION OF COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.

Three hundred and ten visits have been paid to the registered common lodging houses during the year by the District Inspectors or myself. No fresh applications have been made for registration, but the three existing licenses were renewed, in one case, however, not until the keeper had replaced old and worn-out bedding.

INSPECTION OF CANAL BOATS.

During the last year 193 canal boats (with a total floating population of 264 men, 158 women, and 188 children) were inspected. In most cases the condition of the boats left little to be desired, and there can be but little doubt that owing to

the frequent inspections made the cabins are kept in a far more cleanly condition than are many ordinary dwelling houses. Thirty infringements of the Acts or Regulations were detected, these having relation to the following matters:—Absence of registration, 1 case; certificate not produced, 4 cases; boat not properly marked, 1 case; overcrowding, 5 cases; want of painting, 7 cases; water receptacle not provided, 3 cases; absence of or defective condition of pump, 3 cases; dilapidated boats, 7 cases.

Some 26 notices with respect to the foregoing infringements were served, and in most instances these had been remedied at the end of the year.

Instructions for proceedings were taken in one case, where a family were found to be residing in a dilapidated, leaking, and unregistered boat; but as the employer of the family informed me that he was unaware that an unregistered boat was being used, I visited a boat builder at Moxley and discovered that the unregistered boat in question had been supplied in lieu of a registered boat which was undergoing repair, and that the employer was ignorant of this fact. Under these circumstances it was decided not to proceed further with the case.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The work in connection with Infectious Diseases was exceptionally heavy during the latter half of the year, owing to the epidemic of Scarlet Fever. In all 837 cases of Infectious Disease were reported on, and where removal to Hospital was impossible, the cases were kept under observation. In addition the District Inspectors also investigated a large number of suspected cases reported by the School Attendance Officers and others where no medical man was in attendance, and in most instances induced parents to obtain medical advice.

Seven hundred and forty-one rooms were fumigated after removal or convalescence, assistance being afforded to the disinfector by the District Inspectors at the height of the epidemic.

CLEANSING OF PUBLIC URINALS.

With the exception of the new underground convenience, the whole of the public urinals in the Borough are cleansed daily (Sundays inclusive) by the disinfector. In addition to the underground convenience referred to, two new urinals have been erected, viz., one in Black Lake and a second in Roebuck Lane.

REMOVAL OF NIGHTSOIL AND REFUSE.

The number of privies and ashpits emptied during the year under review has been 5,830, at a cost (including the rent of the Cemetery Lane dépôt) of £3,005, as compared with £3,045 in 1906.

With the reduced Inspectorial Staff it has not been found practicable to inspect the whole of the privies and ashpits emptied, as in past years, but a very considerable proportion has been so examined, and in nearly every case the contents of the pits were found to have been properly removed.

The dustbin work continues to increase, there now being over 5,500 bins on the weekly list. Of these some 2,750 are emptied by the Council's staff, at a cost of £444 15s. 8d., as compared with £446 10s. 1d. in 1906.

A considerable number of irregularities with respect to the dustbins for which contractors are responsible were reported, and in one case the contractor was penalised in the sum of £5 for neglect of duty.

Owing to the wet season the nuisance arising from waste paper from the tips was not quite so pronounced, and at Lyttleton Street large quantities of refuse were burnt. Failing the provision of a destructor, the question of a new tip for the dry refuse collected in Town Hall and Spon Lane Wards will shortly have to be considered.

The total amount expended on refuse removal was £3,449 15s. 8d., as compared with £3,491 10s. 1d. in 1906.

In the ensuing year a substantial reduction should be effected, as the new contracts for the removal of nightsoil for the next three years show a reduction of £386 16s.; and this amount, added to the reduction of £167 8s. effected in 1905, shows a total reduction of £554 4s., as compared with the contract figures for 1902-1905.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. H. SPEARS, Fellow Sanitary Inspectors Assoc.,

Assoc. Royal San. Inst.,

January, 1908.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE I.

House-to-house inspections	...	...	...	716
Miscellaneous inspections, including inspections of common yards and houses concerning which com- plaints have been received	...	...	...	8102
Re-inspections	...	...	...	3383
Visits to slaughter-houses	...	...	...	1557
„ „ dairies, cowsheds and milkshops	...	...	...	327
„ „ shops, butchers	...	...	...	1453
„ „ „ fish, game and poultry	...	...	...	417
„ „ bakehouses, etc.	...	...	...	92
„ „ common lodging houses...	...	...	...	310
„ „ fat melting works, etc.	...	...	...	18
Number of canal boats inspected...	...	...	...	193
Cases of infectious disease visited and reported on...				837
Other visits in connection with cases of infectious disease	...	...	...	201
Number of privies, etc., inspected and reported for emptying by staff	...	...	...	1993
Number of privies, etc., re-inspected after emptying				3490
Sundry visits	...	...	...	587
Total number of inspections and visits	...	...	...	23676
Number of preliminary notices served	...	...	...	1496
„ statutory notices served	...	...	...	141
„ legal proceedings taken	...	...	...	1
„ letters written to owners <i>re</i> nuisances...				296
Notices served under Canal Boats Acts	...	...	...	26
Reports sent to Surveyor <i>re</i> dangerous buildings, etc.				78
Reports sent to Water Company <i>re</i> wastes of water...				168
Number of rooms disinfected	...	...	...	741
Number of reports sent to schools <i>re</i> infectious diseases				632
Samples of water taken for analysis	...	...	...	8
Number of drains tested	...	...	...	15

TABLE II.
PRELIMINARY NOTICES SERVED AND NUMBER OF
HOUSES IN CONNECTION WITH NOTICES.

			Notices served.	Houses in connection with Notices.
Filthy and dilapidated houses	...	...	205	480
Filthy and dilapidated outhouses	...	...	98	324
Defective paving and surface channels	...	...	26	101
Defective eaves and downspouting	...	...	22	55
Insufficient drainage	...	...	15	18
Foul, untrapped drainage	...	...	1	3
Choked drainage and W.C.'s	...	...	69	171
Insufficient ashpit accommodation	...	...	130	355
Foul, wet and open middens	...	...	180	476
Defective W.C. connections	...	...	154	416
Filthy state of sanitary conveniences	...	...	461	461
Overcrowded houses or rooms	...	...	49	49
Animals improperly kept	...	...	23	23
Offensive accumulations	...	...	12	12
Water in cellars	...	...	8	12
Insufficient water supply	...	...	12	32
Filthy bakehouses	...	...	2	2
Filthy workshops	...	...	5	5
Dairies and cowsheds not kept in accordance with regulations	...	...	6	6
Polluted wells	...	...	3	5
Dangerous wells or cisterns	...	...	7	24
Miscellaneous	...	...	8	15
			<hr/>	<hr/>
	Totals	...	1496	3045

TABLE III.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT IN
DISTRICT IN PURSUANCE OF INSPECTIONS
MADE AND NOTICES SERVED.*Interior of Houses—*

Filthy houses cleansed and whitewashed ...	303
Houses in which repairs to plastering, brickwork or woodwork have been carried out ...	183
Flooded cellars drained or filled in ...	1
Houses without sufficient means of ventilation, window openings, and means of ventilation provided ...	10

Exterior of Houses—

Defective roofs made watertight ...	64
Houses without eaves, spouting, or with choked or defective spouting—new spouting provided or existing spouting cleansed and repaired ...	79
Damp external walls. Brickwork repaired or covered with impervious coating ...	7
Dangerous chimneys repaired ...	25

Yards and Outbuildings—

Surface paving in yards provided, renewed, or repaired ...	43
Dangerous wells or cisterns filled in or suitable coverings provided ...	9
New earthenware sinks provided in lieu of old brick sinks ...	26
Filthy and dilapidated outbuildings cleansed and repaired ...	65

Drainage—

Absence of or insufficient drainage. Premises drained and connected to sewer or cesspool ...	9
Surface channels abolished and stoneware pipe drains provided ...	134
Defective drainage relaid or repaired ...	13
Number of manhole inspection chambers provided to drainage systems ...	130
Additional gullies fixed ...	290
Choked drains opened and cleansed ...	85
Foul untrapped drains. Stoneware gully traps fixed ...	1

Privies, Water-closets, and Ashpits—

Privies abolished ...	332
Middens abolished ...	237
Dry ashpits abolished and dustbins substituted...	6
Dumb wells abolished. Premises connected to sewer ...	1
Water-closets with flush cisterns substituted for privies ...	356

Fresh water-closets substituted for waste water-closets	4
Dilapidated privies and ashpits repaired ...	20
Percolations of fæcal matter from privies, etc., privies cemented	21
Galvanised dustbins provided in lieu of middens...	236
Additional ashbins provided	153
Middens abolished and converted into dry ashpits	3
Choked water-closets opened and cleansed ...	227
Defective W.C. connections made good... ..	97
Insufficient supply of water to W.C.'s. Flush improved	49
Defective tippers renewed and inspection chambers provided to waste water-closets	10
<i>Keeping of Animals and Offensive Accumulations—</i>	
Nuisances from the keeping of swine abated ...	7
Fowls or other poultry kept in dwelling houses or so as to be a nuisance—removed from premises	13
Offensive accumulations removed from premises...	11
<i>Overcrowding—</i>	
Houses overcrowded—numbers reduced... ..	50
<i>Miscellaneous—</i>	
Manure pits provided or repaired	4
Miscellaneous nuisances abated	12
Filthy approaches to privies cleansed by occupiers	10
Vans removed out of district	6
<i>Water Supply—</i>	
Houses without a proper supply of drinking water—water laid on	25
Polluted wells closed and water laid on from main	6
<i>Factory and Workshops Act—</i>	
Filthy and dilapidated bakehouses cleansed or repaired	3
Closet accommodation provided	3
<i>Dairies and Cowsheds—</i>	
Dairies cleansed and limewashed	21
<i>Slaughter-houses—</i>	
Galvanised iron tins provided for reception of offal	3
<i>Infectious Diseases—</i>	
Walls cleansed and stripped	2
<i>Housing of Working Classes Act—</i>	
Houses unfit for human habitation closed ...	8
Total ...	3373

TABLE IV.—RESULT OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Situation of Premises.	Nature of Complaint.	Act under which Proceedings instituted.	Result.
Slaughter-house rear of No. 246, Great Bridge Street	Carcases of two cows affected with tubercu- losis intended for food of man	Public Health Act, 1875, Sec. 117	Defendant fined £5 and costs.

Food and Drugs Inspector's Report,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1907.

To the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

Herewith I beg to submit a Report of the work carried out under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts during the year ended December 31st, 1907.

I have obtained 140 samples under the provisions of the above Acts, consisting of the following:—New Milk, 64; Skim Milk, 1; Butter, 37; Margarine, 3; Coffee, 5; White Pepper, 12; Ground Ginger, 2; Paregoric, 1; Whisky, 8; Rum, 3; Gin, 3; and Brandy, 1.

These were all submitted to and were analysed by the Public Analyst, who certified 121 samples (86.43 per cent.) as “genuine,” 13 samples (9.28 per cent.) as “inferior,” and 6 samples (4.29 per cent.) as “adulterated.”

All the inferior samples were milks.

The adulterated samples consisted of 5 New Milks and 1 Paregoric.

Proceedings were taken in respect of two of the adulterated milk samples.

In one case the Vendor and his Agent were summoned, and both were convicted, the former being fined £10 and £2 costs, and the Agent £2 fine and 8s. 6d. costs, three previous convictions being proved in each case.

In another case the Vendor was convicted and fined £5 and £2 2s. 6d. costs.

The sample of paregoric was devoid of opium, a constituent required by the British Pharmacopœia.

Proceedings were taken against the Vendor, and he was convicted and fined £2 and £2 5s. 6d. costs.

In the appended Table I give particulars of the nature, number, and quality of the articles examined.

SUMMARY.

Nature of Food or Drug.	No. of Samples Analysed	Genuine	Inferior	Adulterated	Cautioned	Prosecuted	Convicted	Amount of Penalty			Amount of Costs			Remarks.
								£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
New Milk ...	64	46	13	5	3	3	3	17	0	0	4	11	0	12% deficient of fat. 18% deficient of fat, also 12% of add- ed water.
Skim Milk ...	1	1												
Butter ...	37	37												
Margarine ...	3	3												
Coffee ...	5	5												
White Pepper	12	12												100% defici- ent of opium
Ground Ginger	2	2												
Paregoric ...	1	...	.	1	...	1	1	2	0	0	2	5	6
Whisky ...	8	8												
Rum ...	3	3												
Gin ...	3	3												
Brandy ...	1	1												
	140	121	13	6	3	4	4	19	0	0	6	16	6	

During the past year a new and important Bill, known as the “ Butter and Margarine Act of 1907,” was added to the Statute book, and commenced to have effect on the 1st January, 1908.

The above Act deals principally with the amount of moisture that butter and margarine shall contain, restricting the same to 16 per cent., also to 24 per cent. in the case of milk-blended butter.

It also makes provision for the regulating of the proportion of milk solids other than milk fat that butter shall contain.

The Local Government Board may make regulations prohibiting the use of preservatives in the manufacture of butter, margarine, or milk-blended butter.

All descriptive names other than margarine by which margarine shall be sold, such as Keeloma, etc., shall be approved by the Board of Agriculture.

I am, Gentlemen,
Yours obediently,
GEO. WM. DAVIS,
Chief Inspector.

Analyst's Report.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee,
County Borough of West Bromwich.*

GENTLEMEN,

Herewith I beg to submit for your perusal an abstract of the work carried out under the Food and Drugs Acts during the year 1907.

In all 140 samples were submitted to me for analysis, or five less than in the previous year, when 145 were analysed and reported on.

The whole of these samples were purchased officially by Mr. Davis or his assistants.

Below I give the usual Table, which contains a summary of the number and kind of articles examined, together with other information. The samples are divided into three classes, according to their quality, viz. :—

- (1) Genuine, and of good quality.
- (2) Genuine, complying with the necessarily low official limits, but of poor quality.
- (3) Adulterated.

Description of Article.	Total Number of Samples.	Genuine Samples.	Genuine Samples but of low quality.	Adulterated Samples.	Vendors prosecuted	Vendors fined.
Milk ...	64	46	13	5	2	2
Skim Milk	1	1				
Butter ...	37	37				
Pepper ...	12	12				
Coffee ...	5	5				
Ginger ...	2	2				
Margarine	3	3				
Brandy ...	1	1				
Rum ...	3	3				
Whisky ...	8	8				
Gin ...	3	3				
Paregoric...	1	...	...	1	1	1
	140	121	13	6	3	3

Six samples were condemned, and the percentage of adulteration, though slightly higher than in the previous year, still stands at a low figure, namely, 4.3.

The following Table gives particulars of the adulterated samples, and also information as to the results of the prosecutions which were undertaken.

Description of Article	Nature and extent of Adulteration	Remarks
Milk— (Sample 1022)	Deficient of 5 per cent. of its butter fat.	No action.
Milk— (Sample 1023)	Deficient of 12 per cent. of its butter fat.	Vendor fined £10 0 0 & £2 0 0 costs Man fined 2 0 0 8 6 „ ————— £12 0 0 £2 8 6
Milk— (Sample 1024)	Added water : 2 per cent.	No action.
Milk— (Sample 1036)	Added water : 2 per cent.	No action.
Milk— (Sample 1058)	Added water : 12 per cent. ; also deficient of 18 per cent. of its natural butter fat.	Vendor fined £5 and £2 2s. 6d. costs.
Paregoric— (Sample 1070)	Entirely devoid of opium.	Vendor fined £2 and £2 5s. 6d. costs.

Milk and butter again provided practically three-fourths of the articles submitted by the Inspector.

Of the sixty-four samples of the former food, 46 were genuine and of good average quality, thirteen complied with the regulations as to composition laid down by the Board of Agriculture but were of poor quality, whilst five were adulterated, falling in three cases slightly below the standard and in two cases markedly so. I am again glad to be able to report the total absence of preservatives, such as formalin, borax and boracic acid, from the whole of the samples received during the past year.

With one exception all the other articles analysed proved genuine. A sample of paregoric was, however, not sold in accordance with the requirements of the British Pharmacopœia, there being an entire absence of opium. The vendor was prosecuted and fined.

Eight well waters were also analysed, and reports as to their fitness for drinking were forwarded to Dr. Manley. In every case the supply the sample represented was more or less tainted with sewage or animal matter, and the waters were reported as unsafe ones to use for dietetic purposes.

I remain, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

HARRY SILVESTER, B.Sc., F.I.C.

(Public Analyst.)

